

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A vertical structure [[(1)]], having both functions of a seat ~~and/or~~ and a partition screen, comprising:

a pair of upright ~~poles or~~ supports (1), ~~characterized in that it comprises~~

a ~~second~~ quadrilateral articulated ~~structure, or~~ frame (2), ~~which is~~ composed of rods (2a, 2b, 2c),

[[a]] an upper panel and a lower panel (3) being attached the frame (2) thereto;

said frame (2) being adapted to allow the vertical structure (1) to act i) as a seat when with the rods (2b) of the frame (2) ~~are~~ oriented perpendicular to the upright supports (1), ~~or~~ and ii) as a partition screen when with the rods (2b) and the upright supports coinciding ~~coincide, in the position of partition screen and the vertical portion of the upper panel (3) and the portion of sitting lower panel are being~~ coplanar.

12. (currently amended) A vertical structure ~~[[(1)]]~~ as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frame (2) has end stops (7) mounted on the rods (2b), which abut against the upright supports when the seat position is reached.

13. (currently amended) A vertical structure ~~[[(1)]]~~ as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:
~~mechanical or hydraulic means are~~ return springs (20) provided between the frame (2) and the ~~structure~~ frame (1), ~~such as return springs (20) and and/or hydraulic pistons, which are~~ suitably disposed to cause the automatic return from the seat position to the partition screen position.

14. (currently amended) A vertical structure ~~[[(1)]]~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[13]]~~ 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~mechanical means may be also replaced by~~ balance weights hidden in the upright supports or as extensions of the rods (2b) of the frame (2) disposed to cause the automatic return from the seat position to the partition screen position.

15. (currently amended) A vertical structure ~~[[(1)]]~~ as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rods (2b) of the frame are hinged to the vertical structure (1) by ~~special~~ pins (9, 11).

16. (currently amended) A vertical structure ~~[[(1)]]~~ as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lower rods (2b) are hinged with a stationary rod (15), which is oriented transverse to the upright supports.

17. (currently amended) A vertical structure ~~[[(1)]]~~ as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the panel (3) is a single piece, which is secured between the rods (2c) and the stationary rod (15).

18. (currently amended) A vertical structure ~~[[(1)]]~~ as claimed in claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the panel (3) may be made of one selected from the group consisting of fabric, ~~of~~ a synthetic material, and ~~or other~~ materials adapted to withstand the weight of a person.

19. (currently amended) A vertical structure ~~[[(1)]]~~ as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the upright supports may be bent through an essentially right angle, and be joined together by cross members (17, 18) or alternatively by a special plate for direct fastening thereof to the floor.

20. (currently amended) A vertical structure ~~[[(1)]]~~ as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the upright supports ~~may also be of the~~ are straight type and are configured

to be fastened to the floor by one of anchor plates ~~or~~ and flanges.

21. (new) A vertical structure as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

hydraulic pistons provided between the frame (2) and the frame (1) disposed to cause the automatic return from the seat position to the partition screen position.

22. (new) The vertical structure of claim 11, wherein, with the vertical structure configured as a seat, i) the upper panel is vertical to the lower panel and ii) the upper panel is facing and completely spaced apart from the upright supports by an upper two of the rods extending away from the upright supports and a lower two of the rods extending away from the uprights supports.

23. (new) A vertical structure, reconfigurable between a seat configuration and a partition screen configuration, comprising:

a pair of upright supports (1);

a quadrilateral articulated frame (2) composed of rods (2a, 2b, 2c);

an upper panel (3) attached to an upper part of the frame (2);

a lower panel (3) attached to a lower part of the frame; and

connection parts moving the frame, the upper panel, and the lower panel to between

i) a first position, with the lower panel providing a seat, with the rods (2b) of the frame (2) oriented perpendicular to the upright supports (1) and

ii) a second position, with the upper panel and the lower panel both positioned vertically and providing a vertical partition screen, with

a) the rods (2b) and the upright supports (1) coinciding, and

b) a first vertical plane defined by the upper panel (3) and a second vertical plane defined by the lower panel being coplanar.

24. (new) The vertical structure of claim 23, wherein, in the first position,

i) the upper panel is vertical to the lower panel, and

ii) the upper panel is facing and completely spaced apart from the upright supports by an upper two of the rods extending away from the upright supports and a lower two of the rods extending away from the uprights supports.